



St. John the Baptist Melkite Catholic Church

200 E. North Avenue – Northlake, Illinois 60164 www.stjohnmelkite.church

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Prayers Hotline, <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DjekhCR0tVC5kGH3KLYBaV>

Sunday, February 15, 2026 Cheese Fare – Forgiveness Sunday

الأحد، 15 شباط 2026 أحد مرفع الجبن



ANTIPHON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS SUNDAY:

O Creator of the Universe, You fashioned Adam from the dust of the earth. You infused him with a breath of life. You gave him dominion over the earth. By the enticement of the Serpent, he rebelled against Your Commandments and fell. You therefore exiled him from Paradise. But your Only-begotten Son was incarnate, endured Passion and restored us to the Garden of Eden which we had lost. We therefore implore You, at the threshold of Holy and Great Lent, to make us worthy of a sincere repentance, so that we may avoid even the shadow of evil and abstain from carnal pleasure in order to gain You, Divine River of Paradise that quenches the thirst of our souls. Thus, having lived according to your commandments, we may share the glory of the Resurrection of Christ, our God and Savio

For You are long-suffering, most compassionate, and You call all people to salvation; and to You we render glory, honor and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

HYMNS:

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثالث
لتفرح السماويات، وتبتهج الارضيات. لأن الرب صنع عزراً
بمساعده، ووطيء الموت بالموت، وصار بكر الاموات، وأنقذنا
من جوف الجحيم، ومنح العالم عظيم الرحمة.

Troparion of the Patron of the church



O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, in spite of our eagerness to render you due honor, we fall short when singing your praise. Your glorious birth saved your mother from the shame of barrenness, returned to your father the power of speech, and proclaimed to the world the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Kontakion of Cheese-fare (Tone 6)

O You who guide men toward wisdom, and give them intelligence and understanding, instructor of the ignorant and helper of the poor, strengthen and enlighten my heart, O Lord, give me word, O Word of the Father, for behold I will not refrain my lips from crying out to You: O merciful One, have mercy on me who have fallen.

قنداق مرفع الجبن الختام
أيها الهادي الى الحكمة، وواهب الفطنة، ومُنقِّفُ الجُهَّال، ومُجِيرُ
المساكين، شَدَّدْ قلبي وامنحه فهماً، أَيُّهَا السيد، وأعطني كلاماً، يا
كلمة الأب. فها انا لن أُمسِكُ شفَتَيَّ عن الصراخ اليك: أَيُّهَا الرَّحِيمِ،
ارْحَمْنِي أَنَا الْوَاقِعِ.

EPISTLE: Romans 13:11-14:4

Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans

Brethren, now our salvation is nearer than when we came to believe. The night is far advanced: the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us

walk becomingly as in daytime, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in debauchery and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and as for the flesh, pay no attention to its lusts.

But whoever is weak in faith, receive him without arguing about opinion. For one believes he may eat all things, but another who is weak, let him eat vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who does not; and let not the one who does not eat judge the one who does, for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls but he will stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Alleluia:

In You, O Lord, I have hoped: let me never be put to shame. In your Justice, save me and deliver me.

*Be for me a protecting God, a sheltering house to save me.

مقدمة الرسالة

رَتِّمُوا لِإِلَهِنَا رَتِّمُوا، رَتِّمُوا لِمَلِكِنَا رَتِّمُوا
يَا جَمِيعَ الْأُمَمِ صَفِّقُوا بِالْأَبْيَادِي، هَلِّلُوا لِلَّهِ



بصوت الابتهاج

الرسالة (رومة 13: 11 ج الى 14: 4)

يا إخوة، أن الخلاص أقرب إلينا الآن مما كان حين أمنا. قد تناهى الليل وأقترَب النهار، فنخلع اذن أعمال الظلمة، ونلبس اسلحة النور. لنسلكن سلوكاً لائقاً كما في النهار، لا بالقصوف والسكر، ولا بالمضاجع والعهر، ولا بالخصام والحسد. بل اليسوا الرب يسوع المسيح، ولا تهتموا بالجسد لقضاء شهواته. من كان ضعيفاً في الايمان فقبلوه بغير مباحثة في الآراء. من الناس من يعتقد أن له ان يأكل كل شيء، أما الضعيف فيأكل بقولاً. فلا يزدري الذي يأكل من لا يأكل، ولا يدين الذي يأكل من لا يأكل، لان الله قد قبله. أنت من أنت يامن يدين عبد غيره، انه لمولاه يثبت أو يسقط، لكنه سيثبت لأن الله قادر أن يثبتهُ. هلولوا

عليك يا رب توكلت، فلا أخز إلي الابد، بعدلك نجني وانتشلي
كن لي إلهاً محامياً وبيت ملجأ لخلاصي

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:14-21 (Forgiveness & Fasting) of Cheese-Fare Sunday

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their offenses, neither will

your Father forgive you your offenses. And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, who disfigure their faces in order to appear to men as fasting. Amen, I say to you they have had their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not be seen by men to fast, but by your Father, who is in secret; and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where worm and rodent consume, and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither worm nor rodent consumes, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart."

أنجيل أحد مرفع الجبن (متى 6: 14-21)
قال الرب: إن غفرتم للناس زلاتهم، يغفر لكم أيضاً أبوك السماوي زلاتكم. وإن لم تغفروا للناس زلاتهم، فأبوك أيضاً لا يغفر لكم زلاتكم. وإذا صمتم فلا تكونوا معبسين كالمرائين فإنهم يُنكرون وجوههم ليظهروا للناس صائمين. الحق أقول لكم، انهم قد نالوا اجرهم. أما أنت فإذا صمت، فادهن رأسك وأغسل وجهك، لتلا تظهر للناس صائماً بك

لأبيك الذي في الخفية، وأبوك الذي ينظر في الخفية هو يجازيك علانية. لا تكنزوا لكم كنوزاً على الارض، حيث يفسد السوس والصدأ، وحيث ينقب السارقون ويسرقون. لكن اكنزوا لكم كنوزاً في السماء، حيث لا يفسد سوس ولا صدأ، ولا ينقب السارقون ولا يسرقون. فإنه حيث يكون كنزكم هناك يكون قلبكم أيضاً

Sunday February 15th:

For the good intentions of the Akkawi Family
For the new church project. For good health and speedy recovery for all the sick among parishioners and friends. Antoine & Denise Shehata, Antoinette Mansour, Basemah Aranki, Julie Yff, Anthony Baroud, Nazha Massih, Iskandar Serhan, Elie Ghawi.

In Loving Memory of: +Jamileh Akkawi; +Emile Harb +Fouad Nijmeh +Khoder Barhoume.

Monday February 16th: 1st Day of Lent, Mass

7:30pm and Great Compline 8:00 pm

Wednesday February 18th: English Mass

7:30pm and Great Complines 8:00pm

Friday February 20th Arabic Mass 7:30pm and
Acathist 8:00pm FR Beshara Movie Siraj Al
wadee, سراج الوادي



Sunday February 22th: For the good intentions
of the Akkawi Family

Weekly donations: The 8th February:
9:00am Mass: \$65; 11am Mass: \$1,751; Online
Don: \$133; Mailed Don: \$100; Candles: \$140;
Rent: \$500.

Feed My Starving Children

St. John will be participating in a church-wide Feed My Starving Children event (all parishioners are welcome). They ask that participants be 5 years of age or older. We have 55 spots reserved for Feb 28 at noon, so get your RSVP in quick if you plan to attend. Hope to have a great turnout during this touching and fun outing. Let me know if you have any questions :)

<http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=5160XG>

St. John the Baptist Melkite Catholic Church

200 E. North Ave.,
Northlake, IL 60164

Fr. Imad Barakeh b.s.o (708) 916-2068 Fr.Imad.Barakeh@melkite.org

For Spanish Community: Fr. Sergio Ayala (630) 936-1839

OFFICE PHONE

(708) 680-2210
option 1: Priest or office
option 2: Spanish
option 3: Hall Rental

EMAIL

stjohnthebaptist.northlake@melkite.org

ONLINE GIVING

<https://stjohnmelkite.flocknote.com/give/25225>
or scan the QR Code

WEBSITE

<https://stjohnmelkite.church>



TO BE ADDED TO OUR PARISH DIRECTORY AND TO RECEIVE OUR BULLETIN:

Please email your full name and email to stjohnthebaptist.northlake@melkite.org

1st Reconciliation and Solemn Communion

If you would like to register your child (age 8-11) for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confession, please contact Dr Dima Arbach (905)570-7195 to register your son or daughter.



Prospora

If you would like to offer a Memorial (Neyaha) at the end of the Mass for your beloved departed one's anniversary,

or for the occasion of a Third or Ninth or 40 Days Memorial, you may order:

Sleeka (\$150) from Bernadette 708-927-1988

Memorial Korban sweet and small individual wrapped bread (\$1.50 each, \$250 total) from Caroline 847-401-1037

Korban Koddas for remembrance during 2nd procession (\$7 each, medium size) this is the Holy Bread for Communion and distribution after Liturgy. 3 breads are usually needed for a regular Sunday. Please contact Bernadette at 708-927-1988.

Liturgy Intentions:

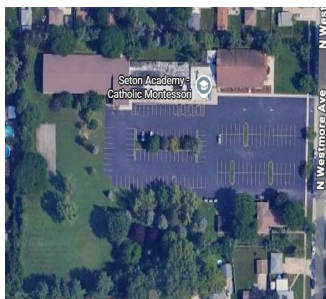
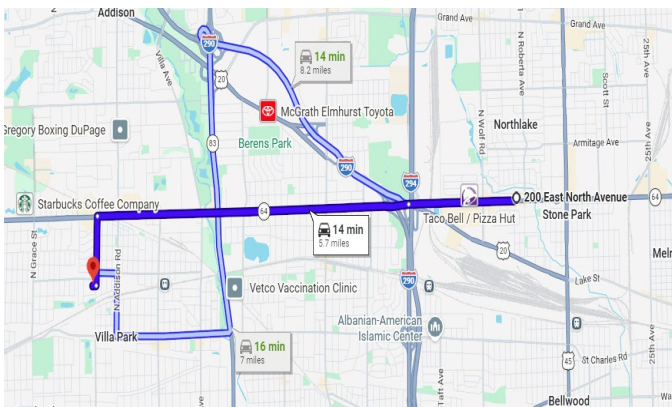
The church doesn't sell Masses or Sacraments, but if you would like to add a name to the list of mass intentions, please write it on your envelope or talk to the priest, and specify the number of Masses, considering a Mass intention is valued universally for \$10. In our church, Mass intentions are considered as donations, and it goes to the same bank account.

The Road to Pascha and Pentecost 2026

February 16	Lent and the Great Fast
February 22	Sunday of Orthodoxy & Icons
March 1	Sunday of the Holy Relics
March 8	Veneration of the Cross
March 15	St. John of the Ladder
March 22	St. Mary of Egypt
March 25	Annunciation to the Mother of God
March 28	Lazarus Saturday
March 29	Palm Sunday
March 30/31/April 1	Holy Week
April 2	Great and Holy Thursday
April 3	Great and Holy Friday
April 4	Great and Holy Saturday
April 5	Easter Sunday

Saint John the Apostle Church

330 N Westmore Ave, Villa Park, IL 60181



A good practice and meditation for Lent

From the Late Father Sammie:

The devil's beatitudes

Blessed are those too tired, those who find excuses after excuses after excuses, to avoid coming to Mass. they are my best workers

Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanks, I can really use them

Blessed are the touchy and over sensitive who are easily offended and stop going to church for they are my missionaries

Blessed the troublemakers for they shall be called my children

Blessed the complainers, their complaints are music to my ears

Blessed are those who Keep a list of all their priests mistakes, for they get nothing out of their sermons and that makes me really happy

Blessed are the church members who expects to be invited to their own church, for they are part of the problems instead of the solution

Blessed are those who gossip for they shall cause strife and division, and that really gives me joy

Blessed are those who act holy in church but swear and curse once there are out, their hypocrisy speaks loudly in my favor

Blessed are those who do not financially support God's work for in stealing from God, you are really stealing for me

Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister, he shall be with me forever

Blessed are you when you hear this, think the sermon speak about someone else other than you, because I got you where I want them.